

## Salvadorans flee war

# Refugees hit El Paso

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El Paso is rapidly becoming a major port of illegal entry for El Salvadorans who are fleeing their country's civil war.

American officials say they have apprehended 1,058 Salvadoran aliens in El Paso in fiscal 1981, compared to 607 last year and 274 in 1979.

ABOUT TWICE that number have been apprehended this year in East Texas, officials say, but they are concerned that more Salvadorans will flock to the El Paso-Juarez border as civil war continues in El Salvador.

Pedro Martinez, 60, will probably be deported to El Salvador by Christmas. He's not looking forward to it.

In an interview at the Immigration and Naturalization Service detention center in El Paso, Martinez said he will be greeted by relatives and maybe a bullet.

MARTINEZ IS A Salvadoran who was picked up by U.S. Border Patrol agents in El Paso about two weeks ago.

"If we are deported back to El Salvador, we are shot or have our tongues cut out," Martinez said.

Juan Lopez, 19, another Salvadoran alien in the El Paso detention center, also fears deportation. "There are many guns," he said, "and no jobs."

IN THE BROWNSVILLE and McAllen area, nearly 1,000 Salvadorans were caught by INS agents between January and March alone.

The numbers have been so great that the U.S. Border Patrol in McAllen had to rent motels to house the illegal aliens, said Larry Richardson, chief Border Patrol agent in McAllen.

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'There are many guns and no jobs'



Pedro Martinez  
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